

which is affected by current laws keeping their money out of the bank system. The SAFE Banking Act provides clarity for business owners, banks, and regulators in the cannabis industry while promoting safety and ensuring further growth to the U.S. economy.

REALTORS thank you for your diligent work to help provide access and clarity to legitimate businesses in those states that have legalized cannabis, which in turn will boost economic growth in real estate and other industries around the country.

Sincerely,

CHARLIE OPPLER,  
2021 President,  
National Association of REALTORS.

RECOGNIZING GITANJALI RAO,  
COLORADO'S 4TH DISTRICT CON-  
GRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE  
WINNER

**HON. KEN BUCK**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 28, 2021*

Mr. BUCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Gitanjali Rao for being selected as Colorado's 4th District Congressional App Challenge Winner. With one in five pre-teens in the U.S. reporting being cyberbullied, cyberbullying others, or having seen cyberbullying, Ms. Rao's app "Kindly" serves as a preventative measure to help protect America's children from this unfortunately common harassment.

Ms. Rao, a student at STEM School Highlands Ranch and TIME's 2020 Kid of the Year, created the app "Kindly", a one-of-a-kind app that uses artificial intelligence algorithms to detect and prevent cyberbullying at an early stage. Ms. Rao's commitment to young people affected by cyberbullying is a credit to her. Her hard work and ingenuity are showcased through this thoughtful, innovative app. She has shown true leadership in her community, and her app will help defeat cyberbullying around the country.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes to Ms. Rao. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Ms. Rao for her great accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL ARAB  
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. MARIE NEWMAN**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 28, 2021*

Ms. NEWMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate April as Arab American Heritage Month and honor the outstanding contributions that Arab Americans have made to this country.

For over a century, Arab Americans have been an integral part of virtually every aspect of American society, including medicine, law, business, education, technology, government, military service, and culture. The incredible contributions and heritage of Arab Americans have helped us build a better nation.

Men and women of Arab descent have strengthened their communities through involvement in community service and public life

and by sharing their rich culture and traditions with neighbors and friends. In Illinois' Third District, which has one of the largest concentrations of Palestinian, Jordanian, and Syrian Americans in the country, the Arab American community is a fundamental part of our civic life and culture.

Unfortunately, Arab Americans continue to face misconceptions, bigotry, and anti-Arab hate. These civil rights abuses, and instances of harmful stereotyping and bullying, must be combatted through education, awareness, and legislation.

Arab Americans join all Americans in the desire to see a peaceful and diverse society, where every individual is treated equally and feels safe; we must continue to work towards a future where every American is able to live free from discrimination.

I am proud to celebrate the extraordinary contributions Arab Americans have made to this country, and I am deeply honored to recognize National Arab American Heritage month this April.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 28, 2021*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on the Legislative Day of April 19, 2021. For the purposes of supporting human rights around the world, had I been present for the roll call vote H. Res. 130—Condemning the continued violation of rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong by the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative, I would have cast the following vote:

Roll Call 121: Yea.

IN MEMORY OF MARY SOMERS  
BALLARD

**HON. ANDY BARR**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 28, 2021*

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Mary Somers Ballard. Mrs. Ballard was born in Holyoke, Massachusetts on July 22nd, 1919. She passed away on April 14, 2021.

Mrs. Ballard was a descendant of two of the co-founders of Rhode Island. She was a proud New Englander who trained in nursing at Mercy Hospital in Springfield, Massachusetts. She enrolled at Boston University and worked at Massachusetts General Hospital. At the age of 23, she entered the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, 811th Air Evacuation Squadron. When asked why she joined the military, she said "We were at war. I joined the Army Air Corps because I thought I could make a contribution." First Lieutenant Somers served two years in England. Following D-Day, she cared for the wounded soldiers in hospital flights from France and Germany to England. Mrs. Somers was stationed with U.S. troops behind enemy lines during the Battle of the Bulge and entered Paris the day after its liberation. After the war, she remained in the reserves until she married.

First Lt. Somers met her physician husband, Captain Joseph Aloysius Ballard, while serving at the Chanute Field Army Hospital in Illinois. They married on April 2, 1948. Dr. and Mrs. Ballard made their home in Lexington, Kentucky, where they raised eight children and were active members of Christ the King Church. Mrs. Ballard had 17 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren, with 2 more expected in July. In 2015, at the age of 95, Mrs. Ballard threw out the first pitch at the Lexington Legends Military Appreciation Night to highlight Kentucky's women veterans.

It is my honor to recognize this amazing patriot, celebrate her life, and appreciate her for her service and sacrifice to our nation during World War II. As a part of "The Greatest Generation", Mrs. Ballard was an important part of the war effort to preserve the freedoms that we enjoy today. I am forever grateful for Americans like Mary Somers Ballard.

DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS  
MONTH

**HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 28, 2021*

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join thousands of organizations and individuals around the country in observation of Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Ten years ago, a mother who lost her daughter to a distracted driving crash successfully petitioned this body to have April officially designated as Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Unfortunately, we are still dealing with the impact of distracted driving on our roadways.

Research shows that using electronic devices increases cognitive distraction. This can be deadly on the road, where a split-second distraction can cause a crash. Approximately 3,142 people died in distraction affected driving crashes in 2019—that's eight people every day dying from a completely preventable cause—and this number is widely believed to be undercounted.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the roads have become much more dangerous. Motor vehicle deaths in 2020 are estimated to be the highest in 13 years, despite dramatic drops in miles driven Americans stayed home. While it's too early to have a full understanding of what caused this increase in the number of people dying in crashes, distraction certainly played a part.

Recognizing these dangerous trends, I'm proud to be the leader of the SAFE TO DRIVE Act with my colleagues MIKE GALLAGHER and STEVE COHEN. SAFE TO DRIVE incentivizes states to pass laws eliminating distraction on our roadways. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting passage of this legislation.

I encourage all motorists to commit to driving attentively and safely, without the distraction of cell phones or other devices. I also hope my colleagues will join me this month in raising awareness about this important issue. Do it for all of our constituents. Their lives are more valuable than any call, email, or text.